



Southern Cross

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Southern Cross is published three times a year—Fall, Mid-winter and Spring. Articles and photos are encouraged and appreciated. With photos, please include caption information. If at all possible, please include a photo of the author with articles. Submission deadline for the Fall issue is September 07, 2012.

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Richard Boyer,
Division Director

Change

We all have change in our worlds and deal with it in varying degrees of ease or stress. Our Ski Patrols are certainly affected by this and we see it each year, so we know it is going to happen. Armed with this given, we all need to anticipate it and plan for it so the jobs or responsibilities with which we're tasked don't suffer as a result. Our Southern Division is no different, and we have some changes occurring. **Ted Forbes**, our First Assistant Division Director as many of you know has had some changes occur in his life lately, not the least of which is a career change and move to Chicago. For this reason and some others, he feels his platter has begun to overflow and will have to resign his Division duties. Other changes with which we need to deal are the following Program Supervisors, after very good jobs done and in some cases many, many years of service these listed hereafter have, for various reasons, found it necessary to step down.

Dave Quidort, Alumni;
Mike Fisher, Avalanche;
Lee Wittman, Elections; and
Lisa Adams, Women's Program;

These represent change and a challenge to replace. I ask each of you in the Southern Division to put your heads to this challenge and let's find folks to carry these programs on and keep our Division operating at a level which is the envy of the ski patrol system. If any of these programs represents a "hot button" or particular interest for you, I invite you to let me or anyone in our division hierarchy know.



On behalf of all members of the division, I sincerely thank each of the above men and women for stepping up and helping make our Southern Division what it is today!

For those of you responsible for any of our many and important programs, committees, or other division offices, the watch words are “**succession planning**”, which works so much better than “**succession pandemonium**”. Let’s all put some work into planning for what would happen, if for reasons we cannot otherwise predict, change should come about in our lives. Our ski patrols warrant this precautionary endeavor.

I look forward to reporting on the business of our National Ski Patrol as the Board of Directors meets in June of this summer as it always does.

Ted Forbes,
1st Assistant Division Director

Summer Dreams

Well here we are in the heat of summer – and frankly it does not feel too different from the heat of this past winter. All across our industry everyone is saying “wait ‘til next year.” And like everyone across our industry, I sure hope next winter is better than this past one. If you have the time and money, the resorts in the Southern hemisphere are opening now, and maybe they will get crushed. That’s on my bucket list – I really want to ski the Andes in August.



And speaking of bucket list items, here’s one I hope you will all consider. NSP will be celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2013. That’s right – **Minnie Dole** first dragged that open tib-fib down a Vermont hill 75 years ago and had the idea to start the organization we all know and love. The 75th anniversary celebration will be in Denver over the weekend of January 31 – February 3, 2013. It’ll be an action packed weekend with two on the snow days, an opportunity to attend the enormous SIA trade show in Denver, and a spectacular Saturday night awards banquet at the Grand Hyatt in downtown Denver. Please consider attending – and get your registration in early as we expect it to fill up. For more info, visit the website http://www.nsp.org/About/75th_site/Events.aspx

Finally, I’d like to let all of you know that I am stepping aside as 1st ADD. With my relocation to Chicago, it is simply not possible to do the job needed as a visible leader in the Division. So **Richard Boyer** has started a search for the next 1st ADD. I encourage you to apply – it is a great job and provides a real chance to lead and expand your network of patrol friends. It has been an honor for me to serve you, and I will continue to patrol at my home mountain Wintergreen.

See you out there,

Ted

Brent Bowman,
2nd Assistant Division Director

I am writing this from Sweden where I am a little sleep deprived. How come there is only about 4 hours of darkness here and I keep getting east facing hotel rooms!!!



Summer has definitely arrived in Atlanta. The pool is already at 80 degrees and I am afraid of where it will be in mid-August. Mid-August??? Isn't there a Ski Patrol thing in Mid-August? Yes, the annual Southern Division Conference in Kingsport, TN is August 10-12, 2012. This is really a great opportunity for everyone to see how the Southern Division of NSP is managed, network with other patrollers and have an all-around good time. The NSP Ski and Snowsports School will be meeting, S&T Instructors will have a forum, there is a hospitality suite and a really great dinner on Saturday night where awards are handed out for all patrols in the Southern Division.

OEC classes are up and running. Good luck to all of the new candidates and OEC challenge course folks. Remember that your local OEC class could use a little help occasionally. Give the Lead Instructor a call or drop them an e-mail and teach a class or stop by to assist a class session.

See you at Kingsport!!!!

From the Assistants...

Byrd White III,
Assistant Division Director - North

What a year! The warmest year that I can remember and I've been around a while. We in the North were very lucky, well not really, we just have great snowmakers that allowed all of our resorts to open, a little late but open.

Thanks to **Tom Hughes** and crew the Senior program in West Virginia went off like clockwork. Likewise the Certified program and the Ski and Toboggan Enhancement clinics were great. While I didn't get to the Virginia resorts as planned I know from Randy that all went well in Virginia.

This year as my first as ADD North has been a learning experience, following **Jan Starr** is a little intimidating. Jan did this job so well for so long, she knows everyone and everyone knows her. She's a Certified patroller who was my go to person for many years. She always had the answer and taught me a lot. I thank her. I am really thankful to have **Tom Wagner** in West Virginia and **Randy Trow** in Virginia who do all the heavy lifting.

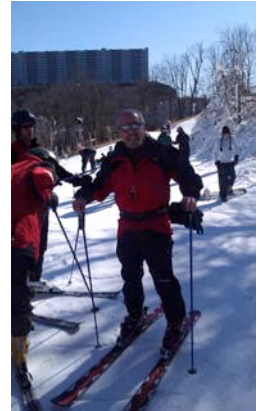
I am looking forward to next year and getting to know more of the patrollers in the region. I am also looking forward to and I'm excited about the opportunity to work with the Boy Scouts who are building a 10,600-acre recreation center here in West Virginia. Please see Tom Wagner's article for the details.

Have a safe Summer!

Mike Harris,

Assistant Division Director – South

What a challenging season we all just had. Roll out of the 5th edition, getting instructors updated, and test question issues. All of this before an unusually warm winter. Blue Ridge and Dixie ski area management really worked hard at keeping the best conditions possible under the circumstances. Programs in both regions seemed to go smoothly with a minimal amount of switching dates and I will leave the reporting of that up to your respective Region Directors. NSP had another well attended PEC conference this year at Copper Mountain. One of the highlights for me was a presentation of NSP's involvement with the 10th Mountain Division. I hope everyone will consider attending the Southern Division Conference in Kingsport TN at the Meadowview Marriott on August 10 & 11.



Mike Harris (AKA) Tyrone

Southern Division Webmaster

Trish Deane,

Webmaster/Board Secretary

Recruiting and retention is a hot topic in our Division. The Southern Division web site now has several opportunities for patrols to advertise. First, on the join page, we have an email link to your Patrol Rep and a link to your web site, if available. In addition, I encourage all patrols to create a video about your patrol. If you send it to me at yogagirl@comcast.net (or send me a link to your YouTube video), I'll post it. Take a look at the video from Smoky Mountain Nordic Patrol at this link: <http://www.southernnsp.org/Contact.aspx>.



Second, once you have recruiting events planned, please send them to me. We have a recruiting page, which will become available again once we have actual events to post. Your event will be there and on the Division calendar. If you have relevant photos, please forward those as well.

We're working hard to keep up-to-date information from National on the Southern Division site. If you're interested in knowing what's going on in the Division or at National, it's a great place to start. For instance, you can find information on the Division's 40th Anniversary, NSP's 75th Anniversary, and the Cascade Limited Edition Toboggan raffle. If you have a special anniversary or other event for your mountain, please let me know so the Division can honor your patrol by putting it on the web site.

Thanks!
Trish

Succession Planning... is it on your radar screen?

By Bill Smith

Well, here we are and it's spring/summer already once again. Often patrols are electing new Patrol Rep's during this time to get ready for a new season. It can be a trying process to go through for some patrols. Have you prepared those "on the bench" to carry on? Do you sense a lack of bench strength in your organization? Do you believe that when you head out the door, the excellence you insisted on during your watch will become a thing of the past? If so, you aren't alone in that; many leaders, wanting to pass on their legacy, turn toward succession planning as a means of selecting the future leaders for their team.

While succession planning is intended for a number of good reasons, many leaders see succession planning as only being necessary to ensure the continuation of critical processes once they and other senior leadership begins to vacate their positions. Replacing these individuals, however, is only one facet of succession planning.

And while there is value in saying, "This is the way we budget, schedule, etc." or "These are the deadlines we need to meet annually," a well-crafted succession plan is much more than that. A succession plan that's worth your effort is one that reinforces your faith in the most important asset you have: your people, the next generation of your organizational leadership.

In an article on succession planning in the Harvard Business Review, Marshall Goldsmith said, "Plans do not develop anyone—only development experiences develop people."

Considering only how we currently do things doesn't respect the valuable perspective a fresh face brings to the table. By insisting, "This is how we do things," we devalue others' ingenuity and creativity; much of what probably prompted us to consider them as candidates for advancement to begin with.

There's a very important part of mentoring these individuals while you're still there. By challenging them to fulfill the new roles they may undertake, you can allow them to engage certain organizational issues, to form independent hypotheses and to seek answers that may not have been considered before, all while maintaining some control over the outputs and focusing them on the desired core values.

Effective succession planning is even more important in volunteer organizations where the departure of key individuals may doom the further growth or even survival of a patrol. When an organization leans hard on one individual for certain integral parts of its operations or its administration, one hiccup can prove to be catastrophic.

Especially in these economic times, if an organization has been dependent on a certain person to always be there, guess what happens when they aren't? In a best-case scenario, someone else steps into that role. More often than not however, service to the resort falters or others struggle to fill the role and often fail. This can also cause turnover or, worse, the entire organization flounders or even collapses.

In any case, with the ensuing loss of confidence, especially if it's a public departure, much-needed support and funding can become problematic.

Again, bench strength should always be on your mind when considering the future. If you have someone you consider to be invaluable - so invaluable that they'll leave a gaping hole when they decide to hang up their helmet/hat - you'd better think now about developing someone to take their place before it's too late.

This scenario takes into account a planned departure; it's much worse when a tragic loss occurs prematurely. Could this happen in your organization? You bet it could.

If you truly care about the long-term health of your organization, looking at the people within makes solving that problem much easier. In addition to dealing with a known entity, if you want to develop loyalty to your leadership and buy-in to the patrol's mission, give your subordinates the opportunity to shine by challenging them and giving them a stage to prove their worth.

Even if a formal program is difficult to manage immediately, a great first step is to entrust certain projects to your charges, giving them the authority and responsibility to handle a portion of management. This may not be sufficient for an individual to ascend to the next level, but they begin to get their feet wet and understand the processes at work. And when they succeed, they're not only rewarded for doing a great job; they're also rewarded with experience and education.

Take a hard look at those you serve and understand that the greatest injustice you can hand them is the lack of confidence in their ability to go to bat when they get the chance. With you leading them and showing them where the hurdles on the path are, they'll see you in a different light. Likewise, you can pride yourself in knowing that you led them to that new view at the top.

Bill Smith began his patrolling career with the Homestead Ski Patrol in 1991. He is currently a patroller with Wintergreen Ski Patrol in Virginia. Bill has served in a number of leadership positions and has taught and written extensively about organizational change, leadership and training.

Brent Rockett,
Blue Ridge Region Director

BLUE RIDGE REGION MESSAGE

Although, it was not a great winter weather year, all the resorts were able to manage due to all the improvements that have been made the last couple of summers. **Gil Adams** at Beech Mt reported that due to “their updated snowmaking system, we were able to turn things totally around in a twelve hour period, especially when the temperature dipped into the teens. We are adding six more automated, tower mounted Super Polecat snowmaking machines as well as moving some of our existing ones to more effective locations. Things look real good for the next ski season.” Likewise, Appalachian and Sugar Mt continue to make improvements so that they can deal with the fickle southern weather. Again, congratulations to Appalachian Ski Mt on celebrating 50 years, 1962-2012.



Well, it is June and we are now enjoying a pleasant cool start to the summer. Where was this weather pattern in early March to end the ski season? Beech Mtn. even recorded upper 30's over a recent weekend. It is time to enjoy the numerous summer activities on the mountains. On Beech Mt this summer, the Monster Energy MTB Race Series is being held on the weekends of June 16-17, August 18-19 and September 15-16.

<http://www.beechmountainresort.com/media/news/87.html>. Also, the USA Cycling Mountain Bike Gravity National Championship is to be held again at Beech Mt on July 19-22.

<http://www.usacycling.org/forms/natchamps/2012/2012-MTBSkedschedule.pdf>. This race is a HUGE event. Those of you who attended last year will remember the caliber of athletes and the scope of the event. They are expecting to see maybe three times the number of racers competing this year. **If anyone is able to help, please contact Gil.** Anyone who has a 4-wheeler is encouraged to bring it to help during bike races.

Another event that is happening at Beech Mt is a weekend festival of music and other activities that is promoted and managed by the folks at Gnarnia, <http://gnarniathefestival.com/>, the Festival of Gnarnia; <http://www.beechmountainresort.com/media/news/84.html>.

The Appalachian Patrol will again be manning a patrol booth at the local Emergencyfest on June 16 and in July will be having their annual Summer Patrol Board Meeting and dinner on Lake Norman at the Ray's Pavilion, courtesy of **Tony and Shari Ray**. What a great way for the Patrol and their families to get together for a day of fun after a time-consuming ski season.

In the fall, Sugar Mt will be holding their annual Octoberfest on October 13-14 and the patrol will be providing first aid and other support for the event.

As you can see the mountains are full of activities and I hope everyone will have a chance to experience some of these events this summer.

Even though the summer is just beginning, it is not too early to look ahead at our fall activities. The Region Instructor Refresher will be held in early September and the OEC Refreshers will be held at Sugar Mt on October 6 and at Appalachian and Beech Mt on November 3 with their individual On-the-Hill Refreshers the following day.

And don't forget the Southern Division Conference in Kingsport, TN on August 10 – 12.

Enjoy the summer.

Brent

West Virginia Region

Tom Wagner,
West Virginia Region Director

Looking back at the winter in West Virginia, Mother Nature provided early season or spring conditions from early December through March. The benefit of this was that skiers didn't have to struggle to stay on a snow and ice covered roadway as they traveled to their favorite mountain. West Virginia resorts aren't foreign to mild winters or the sometimes, the lack of natural snow. If the natural precipitation doesn't show up in West Virginia the cold temperatures do. Over the years, WV resorts have invested wisely in snowmaking and current technology that allows them to take advantage of snow making opportunities on short notice. Fan guns with weather stations and computer controls have replaced the army of snowmakers who one time worked thankless hours in the dark pulling hoses, setting guns, and readjusting as the weather changed. The down side of the mild weather was that in the urban areas where the bulk of West Virginia skiers come from people were playing golf and riding bikes all winter long. For the skiers that did show up they found sunny days, snow covered slopes and few lift lines. In general the resort's attendance was down by 10% or more this season.

As for the NSP Patroller programs this past season all resorts reported good participation in the Basic Patroller Program. At the senior level Timberline hosted the Senior EMM clinic and did a great job of rolling out the red carpet to make visiting patrollers, candidates, patients, and VIP's feel welcome. The clinic was complete with a traditional Timberline cook-out lunch at the top of the mountain! Many thanks for everyone who helped to put this together. It's on the calendar for next season. Senior S&T and proficiency clinics were hosted at Snowshoe. As usual the level of instruction was outstanding and a lot of positive feedback was received from all who attended. Winterplace hosted the Senior EMM evaluation and the Certified EMM evaluation this season. This couldn't have been done without the support and efforts of Patrol director **Isaac Colvard** and Winterplace Risk Manager **Walt Watson**. Both Isaac and Walt were in constant communication with mountain management to insure that these programs didn't interrupt mountain operations. Training programs tax all the mountain systems, especially at the end of a season when usable terrain, staff, and resources are in short supply. This is a reminder to all of us to take a moment to thank each of our Mountain managers who are often on the receiving end of a complaint for supporting the NSP programs. Their continued support is vital to our success.

Summer is seeing an increasing number of patrollers participating as Mountain Bike Patrollers and assisting with summer resort operations. As resorts are looking at the 12 month calendar of business instead of the just the seasonal flow, West Virginia has a new player coming to town. The “Boy Scouts of America”. The scouts are constructing a high Adventure camp that will become the home of the National Jamboree every 4 years and will host the world jamboree in 2019. “**The Summit**” is a 10,600-acre high adventure camp currently under construction adjacent to the New River Gorge National River in Southern West Virginia. The NSP and the BSA have a lot in common. Both are service organizations, both have leadership programs, many patrollers have been scouts and many are currently involved with scouting. Just about all of our resorts have scout weekends and many of us have treated a few scouts during these times. Due to the commonalities of our groups, preliminary discussions are underway between the NSP and the BSA to explore the opportunities of the two groups working together. It’s still very preliminary but this could be an exciting development. I hope to provide a more detailed report at the fall meeting.

Hope everyone has a great summer!

Think Snow!

Tom

From the Supervisors and Advisors...

Certified ... Certified ... Certified ... Certified ... Certified ... Certified ... Certified

Brandon Deane,
Certified Program Supervisor

Thank you to Cataloochee’s management and patrol staff for hosting the Certified Program clinic and to Winterplace’s management and patrol staff for hosting Southern Division’s 2012 Certified Exam. Both events were very successful.

Cataloochee is now an approved S&T exam site for the Certified Program!



The Certified Program is excited to welcome two new members. Congratulations to **Wayne Morgan (CAT)** and **Tom Gantt (APP)** for completing the certification process at Winterplace this spring.

Steve Kuller (ADM) was appointed to a three-year-term as National Certified Advisor by a committee made up of the Certified Advisors from each of the divisions.

If you are interested in continuing education beyond the Senior Program, you should consider participating in the certified program. Join us as we pursue excellence in patrolling. Now is a great time to start getting involved. Just email me at cbdeane@comcast.net .

Further information on the program is available through the Southern Division web site:
<http://www.southernnsp.org/Library.aspx>.

Brandon

Leadership Development ... Leadership Development ... Leadership Development

Mary Underwood,
Leadership Development Supervisor

TO: All NSP Senior Candidates

Here is a quick over-view of Basic Leadership Development for the Ski Patroller.

We hope to hold this course this summer. We have reserved a classroom at Western Carolina University in August following the Fall Conference for either August 18 or 25th. If you are interested in attending, please let me know which date is more convenient for you. Also, if neither date works for you, give me several dates that you are available on weekends.



BASIC LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FOR THE SKI PATROLLER

- One day (8 hr) course
- Each patroller is sent a packet of activities to be completed before attending class.
- There is no test to pass in this course, but completion of pre-class activities and active participation in class discussions and activities is required.
- Goals
 1. To help students sharpen leadership skills to a level of proficiency commensurate with their duties and patroller's and leaders
 2. To show students how to apply leadership skills in real NSP situations.
 3. To promote effective job performance by training patrollers to use leadership skills in creative problem solving.

Components of Course

1. Leadership 101: This unit will cover basic leadership/managerial functions. Students will learn how to apply concepts in everyday patrolling.
2. Coaching and Mentoring: This segment is designed for students to learn the characteristics of effective coaches, identify the similarities between effective coaches and effective leaders, identify

four critical coaching techniques and match coaching techniques with subordinate need and performance.

3. **Communication:** Students will identify types and purposes of communications, discuss major concepts of communication, talk about verbal and nonverbal barriers to communications, explain perception and its effect on communication, explore the process of listening, and identify techniques for improving general listening techniques.
4. **Risk Management:** Here the student will examine why the patroller should be concerned with preventing snow sports accidents, what the primary causes of skiing/boarding accidents are, examine types of unsafe acts, discuss resort liabilities, and look at what can be done to satisfy all parties.
5. **Leadership Opportunities:** This unit will help the student to understand the leadership and educational structure of Southern Division, gain knowledge of NSP publications/web sites, and identify appropriate paths to pursue an educational or leadership role within the patrol, region or division.

Mary Underwood, Div. Leadership Course Supervisor, maryu@bellsouth.net



Outdoor Emergency Care ... Outdoor Emergency Care ... Outdoor Emergency Care

Bob Brewster,
OEC Supervisor

Only about 140 days until opening day at Cataloochee, the countdown to a new season has begun. Actually in OEC we have less than a month to the new season as we start to roll out new OEC classes. In my last article I talked about change, for the new candidates coming into the division it's going to be more like evolution. Whether we like it or not, technology has come to the OEC program and particularly the OEC courses.



There are many reasons for the introduction of web learning to our OEC classes and refreshers, the ability to capture more recruits, candidate and instructor travel times and expense, instructor availability, etc. But the bottom line is we have too much material we now have to teach in too little time. So we are working on the development of a distance-learning program to supplement our OEC courses. Its biggest advantage is it's free to the division and the candidate. Its biggest disadvantage is that the candidate must now have access to a computer with built-in camera/microphone and the internet. National OEC has just raised the number of teaching hours to 100-120 per class, making for more required class time. With the added material in the 5th edition to teach, quality hands-on time was being sacrificed to teach chapters. Distance learning has been embraced by corporate America and universities throughout the United States. The convenience, increased learning opportunities of the program and cost savings far outweigh the disadvantages. In the coming months I will be working with ROA's, ITs, instructors and the course IOR's to rollout the program. Two classes starting in June in the Dixie region will be testing the new program.

Look for our refresher guides to require additional "homework" to work on prior to the refresher and bring with you. Studying material prior to arriving at your refresher means more time for the important hands-on skills that we as patrollers work with day-to-day. This year's refresher is Cycle B. The instructors guide will be available in instructor's resources at the National site on June 1. Refresher Study Guides will be included in the Ski Patrol Magazine mailed out later in the summer.

Neurological injury is one of the topics in this year's Cycle B. Concussions and traumatic brain injury have been in the news daily in the last year. I hope to work with our medical advisors both on the division level all the way through to the patrol level to create awareness and promote protocols when suspicion of a head injury is involved.

It's nice to take a big deep breath after last year's introduction 5th edition. All in all there were a total of 11 instructor updates completed including the Fall Conference in Kingsport. Of the approximately 360 instructors presently active in Southern Division we updated all but 53 instructors between June and November of 2011. Our fall refreshers were supplemented by many of the new skills found in the 5th with more to come in Cycle B. Be sure to thank an OEC instructor next time you see one. Their commitment to excellence is what makes our OEC program what it is.

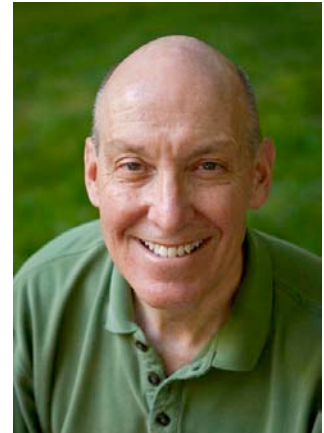
Remember to come to the fall conference. There should be a little something for everyone. On the OEC side we'll be offering a clinic "101 Uses for a SAM Splint". Look forward to seeing everyone there.

Russell Blakeley, MD, FACC

Medical Program Supervisor

“Wait...is it 15:2 or is it 30:2 and is it one shock or do I stack three shocks.....Oh man, why do they keep changing this stuff?!”

It does seem that change is the only constant in life, and our ski patrol life is no exception. Rust and gold jackets change to red and white. Skinny, straight skis become fat and curvaceous. Feet side by side become feet spread wide. Some of life’s changes are born out of advances in technology or technique while others are the product of fashion or style. We embrace the change and move on.



But, the changes that occur in the care we give our patients on the mountain come from a completely different process and they certainly have a more significant impact on the patroller’s responsibilities. These changes come from scientific investigation and then clinical testing and then organized dissemination to those who provide the care. The CPR changes we have seen in recent years are a great example of this process.

Man has struggled throughout history to restore life to those from whom it has vanished and this quest has evolved into the science of resuscitation. It is a young science, as evidenced by the fact that the term “CPR” is less than 50 years old, and it battles a discouragingly persistent foe. In spite of all the effort, the overall probability of surviving an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest is only 6.4%. But, the odds are improving thanks to worldwide effort. In 1992, this effort organized itself and The International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation (ILCOR) was formed (<http://www.ilcor.org/en/home/>). The committee is composed of a collection of the world’s authorities in resuscitation and they gather every 5 years to review the current state of the science and make their recommendations for treatment. These recommendations are then taken by the world’s medical care organizations (American Heart Association, American Red Cross, etc.) and are shaped into the CPR protocols we use today. Each country develops its own protocols based on local resources and cultural characteristics. So it was in 2000, that the ILCOR published its first recommendations for the use of the AED (*Circulation*. 2000;102(suppl);I1-I384.). The “ski patrol” is actually cited in the recommendations as an example of the type of organization that should have access to an AED. The American Red Cross and American Heart Association both added the AED to their CPR protocols immediately. These recommendations included a ratio of compressions to breaths of 15:2 and analyzing with the AED and delivering one shock and reanalyzing and delivering a second shock and a third if needed before restarting chest compressions. At the next meeting of the ILCOR in 2005, they were struck by the growing scientific evidence that chest compressions should be interrupted as little as possible. As a result, their recommendations were to change the ratio of compressions to breaths from 15:2 to 30:2 and to analyze with the AED and deliver one shock and then immediately restart chest compressions for two minutes before another shock is attempted.

Now, the big question.....do all these changes make any difference? Recent studies do show the new protocols are helping! In one study of patients who at the time of resuscitation had a rhythm that lead to a shock from the AED, it was found that using the new CPR protocol resulted in an 80% improvement in survival from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (*Circulation* 2009; 119:2597-2605). Even in patients who don’t have a “shockable” rhythm, there is a 50% improvement in survival if treated with the new CPR protocol (*Circulation* published online April 2, 2012). We would all agree that 80% better than abysmal is still awful, but for the patient you are treating with CPR, the new protocol is the best available care.

So, embrace the change and move on.....pump hard and pump fast!

Russell Blakeley, MD, FACC

Transportation ... Transportation ... Transportation ... Transportation ...

Tony Tingle,

Division Transportation Supervisor



I just got back from fieldwork in North Charleston, SC. It was in the 90's, humid and I spent a good bit of time convincing my co-workers that we did actually have snow to ski/ride on last season. Thank goodness for cell phone photos with a time/date stamp. I hope all of you Patrollers are catching up on your To-Do list that accumulated over the winter. I'm still working on mine. One of my To-Do's is to come up with something for the Fall Conference in Kingsport. I think during this year's meeting, the Snow Sports School and Transportation folks will share a room, and the transportation meeting will follow the Snow Sports School presentation. It seems we always have a lot of folks who need to attend both meetings, and this year you can.

I've got a couple of ideas for the Transportation Roundtable:

First, opening and closing courses. Every year there are some courses that get opened at the beginning of the season (Toboggan Enhancement Seminars to cover on the hill training for the whole patrol, for example) but don't get closed. Opening a course is easy. You can register them online. On the other hand, closing them takes some paper work, and there is no online option. We will go over the paper part of it in Kingsport. As a side note, I'll be sending reminders for folks to close courses that appear open on the NSP site. I'm here to help close them if you need me.

The other topic of conversation will be a preview of what I've seen coming down the pike for the updated Senior S&T Manual. I have commented on the Draft version, and it contains good information and clarifies some questions I've heard over the years. I figure there will be a couple of updates, edits, etc. over the summer so I won't bore you with details Think Teaser for Kingsport

If there is some topic you want to see presented in Kingsport, some transportation questions you need answered, or just want to chat, my e-mail address is geofolks@att.net drop me a line. I'm game for all suggestions.

Next time you are mowing the grass and it's two degrees hotter than Hades, think about that day last season when you were on the lift, passed through a running snow gun, and your cheeks were about to crystallize and fall off.....you will feel a bit cooler for a moment. Hope you have a good summer; I hope your To-Do list gets shorter; and I hope to see you in Kingsport.

Tony Tingle

Southern Division Transportation Advisor

Snowsports ... Snowsports ... Snowsports ... Snowsports ... Snowsports ... Snowsports

Briggs Allen,
Snowsports Supervisor



Hello everyone, as I sit down to write this on Memorial Day 2012 it's 91° in Southwest Virginia which is much, much too hot. Sort of like last ski season. But that's history and now time for us to focus on Winter 2012-13.

The Southern Division NSP Snowsports School is already planning some great clinics. Thus far, we are starting as always with our "**Train the Trainer**" clinic at Cataloochee Resort December 8-9. This clinic is open to all alpine skiing and boarding patrollers with classes being segregated into those preparing for a PSIA /AASI exam, patrol trainers wanting to refresh their skills for the upcoming season and of course, patrollers that just want to improve their skiing and riding. Additionally, this season we hope to be able to provide a special session on movement analysis which simply is watching an individual ski/ride while specifically describing their movements, determining the cause and effect relationships and then, prescribing a focus for positive change. We do it all the time whether we are instructors, examiners or just patrollers trying to help each other out. We all need more practice in this valuable skill. The "Train the Trainer" clinic is the perfect way to refresh and renew our talents at the start of the season.

In 2013 we are also planning a **Divisional Women's** clinic as well as a **Snowboard Improvement** clinic. Both of these programs were scheduled for last season but due to uncooperative weather had to be canceled. Also upcoming will be our much-anticipated **Demo Team** clinic. This biennial clinic will be our best yet!!! Hopefully this season we will have this clinic earlier than ever before which will give us time to practice our newfound skills. Stay tuned.

Now there is more great news with congratulations going out to Wintergreen patrollers and Division Snowsports School members **Matt Weitz** and **Debbie Gagon**. Matt passed his PSIA Level III Part One (skiing) exam in March at Stowe, while Debbie completed her Level II journey by passing Part Two (teaching) at Timberline in March. Climbing the PSIA/AASI ladder is a long, expensive, stressful and arduous task. These patrollers are to be complimented for their hard work and dedication. Also congratulations go to Cataloochee patroller and longtime PSIA Level II Snowsports School Instructor **Wayne Morgan** for his completion of the Certified Program.

By the way, don't forget the upcoming Southern Division Patroller Conference and the 40th Anniversary Celebration at to be held August 10-12 in Kingsport Tennessee. The Snowsports School and the S&T Program will be meeting together this year as many of our members participate in both. This will be a great, informative meeting so watch your e-mail for further details.

Finally, summertime is approaching and snow sports are in the back of our minds right? Nope! Want to expend almost no effort, money and very little time, yet the moment you are on the snow you will be instantly improved?

Impossible you say?

Nay! Nay!

One of the hottest topics in medical rehabilitation today is balance training. What a coincidence.... the first word in BERP (the PSIA mnemonic for: balance, edging, rotary and pressure) is BALANCE. It's really hard to be a good skier or snowboarder without mastering balance. But isn't this an innate quality that we just sort of have? Well yes and no...we can refine and improve our balance. Practicing this simple task 1 minute per day can make a dramatic effect in your skiing/snowboarding skills. I suggest finding a corner (if you stand in a corner it's easy to use your hands to steady yourself, if necessary) with your head facing straight, arms at your side, or fingertips lightly touching each wall, lift one leg and slowly count to 30. Then switch legs. When you get to the point that you can stand on each leg for 30 seconds without having any balance difficulty add this twist. Find your corner, head straight, close your eyes stand on one leg for 30 seconds and then the other. Finally, when you can adequately balance on each leg for 30 seconds with your eyes closed add a balance board (I like the 14 inch round Valeo Tri-level Balance Board about \$18 on eBay) to the equation. By the way, when you try the balance board, make sure you are on a hard surface, in a corner with your fingertips lightly touching the wall for support. As you progress you can put your hands in a skiing/boarding position for better balance. You will be surprised how this quick, simple task will improve your skiing/boarding skills for the upcoming season.

Until next time: Remember Snowsports are simple... turn right, turn left and repeat as necessary.

Senior ... Senior ... Senior ... Senior ... Senior ... Senior ... Senior ... Senior

Hugh Jernigan,
Senior Program Supervisor



Another Productive Year for the Senior Program

All four regions in the Southern Division once again accomplished the task of conducting excellent Senior Program clinics and evaluations, producing well-trained new Senior Patrollers during the 2011-2012 ski season.

Region Tidbits:

West Virginia Region

Although the weather this season was not as cold and didn't produced as much natural snow as we would have wished for throughout the Southern Division, the Instructors/Evaluators for the Senior Program did an exceptional job! For example, the Senior OEC Clinic for the West Virginia Region at Timberline took advantage of a slope closed to the public to hold the clinic. Working on Senior OEC scenarios on an advanced slope, skiable from the top to bottom, in the snow (and, yes it was snowing) was a great learning event for the candidates, and was a fun experience. Well, at least being able to ski on an advanced slope with no public around was fun *Many thanks to Tom Wagner, Byrd White, and Tom Hughes for their efforts and coordination of the Senior Program in the West Virginia Region.*

Virginia Region

There were fairly large candidate classes attending the OEC and S&T Senior Clinics at Massanutten, the Senior OEC Evaluation at Bryce and Senior S&T Evaluation at Wintergreen. The preparation and planning of the Instructor/Evaluator teams showed in the efficiency and results of the clinics and evaluations. *Many thanks to T.*

and Peg Harris for their many years of coordinating the Virginia Region Senior Program and the Senior OEC, along with Trace Higgins for his organization and directing of the Virginia Region Senior S&T.

Blue Ridge Region

As expected, after a couple of years of very large Senior Candidate classes, the Blue Ridge Region has reduced numbers of candidates this year, but the Region Senior Program remains strong. Congratulations to **Jo Ann Ehlinger** on her first year as Region Senior Coordinator, and **Patrick Benson** on his first year directing the Senior S&T. *Many thanks to **Toni Cheek**, the previous Region Coordinator and **David Hall**, Chief Senior S&T Evaluator, who retired from their positions after many years of dedicated service in the Blue Ridge Region.*

Dixie Region

The evaluation team for the Dixie Region Senior S&T Evaluation did a terrific job planning and conducting a successful evaluation for a very large candidate class at Cataloochee. Congratulations to **Bill Clarke** on his first year as Region Senior Coordinator. *Many thanks to **Bill Clarke** for his direction of the Dixie Region Senior program and **Bob Brewster** for his many years of work and support as the previous Region Senior Coordinator and backbone of the Region Senior OEC.*

Special thanks to all the ski resorts and ski patrols who graciously hosted Senior Program events this year. And a very special thanks to all the evaluators and trainers to gave their time to make this program so successful.

Division Senior Information Updates

1. Last December we received the new Senior OEC Guidelines from the national office. **Bob Brewster** in his position as Division OEC Supervisor will be in charge of assisting the Regions in implementing the guidelines. The basic premise of the program remains the same and Senior Candidates will notice little or no change. Most of the revisions in the program will be procedural and administration changes.
2. In response to the new Senior OEC Guidelines, a **Senior OEC Instructor Update** will be held at the Southern Division fall meeting in Kingsport, August 10-12. **All Senior OEC Instructors are encouraged to attend.** Additional updates may be held in the regions, as necessary.
3. The Southern Division is working on providing more accessible electives for Senior Candidates, and developing enhancements to the Senior Program to offer more learning opportunities to the candidates.
4. A **Senior Program Information** session will also be held during the Southern Division fall meeting for anyone wanting to learn more, or have input on the Southern Division Senior Program.

Plan on attending the Southern Division Meeting in Kingsport, Tennessee August 10-12, 2012 for updates on the Senior Program!

Election Coordinator ... Election Coordinator ... Election Coordinator ...

Lee T. Wittman,
Election Coordinator



Summary of the NSP Southern Division Election Procedure

Elections are held every other year, on the odd number years. The election is for the Division Director who serves a two-year term with a maximum of three consecutive terms.

Every patrol in the Southern Division has one vote that is cast by the Patrol Representative of record. The Division staff appointments are made by the Division Director with the exception of the Past Division Director who automatically serves a two-year term concurrent with the newly elected Division Director.

The election procedure requires that all candidates must submit a resume of qualifications and have the option to include a platform. Specific qualifications for DD can be found in the By-Laws that are published in the Southern Division website. The candidate's information is published in the January/Mid-Winter issue of the Southern Cross.

All patrollers are encouraged to take an active part in this election procedure by reviewing the nominee's position and qualifications and voicing their opinions to the Patrol Representative. For more details refer to the Southern Division website.

Lee T. Wittmann, Election Coordinator
102 Rainbow's End
Beech Mountain, NC 28604
[828 260 0060](tel:8282600060)
lwittmann@skybest.com



What to do when you encounter autism?

By Scott Campbell (Massanutten Alpine Patroller)

Autism affects over a half million Americans today. The chance that one of them will be on your hill increases every day. This condition presents very unique challenges in communication and treatment. As the father of a 14 year-old son with profound autism, I started giving autism safety and awareness classes to other parents, law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMT's, and other first responders in 2005. Thus far, eight of these classes have been specifically for ski patrollers. I have taught nearly 200 of them, including eleven in national forums. Two web links to my "*Autism Awareness: A Patroller's Guide*" article from the Winter 2005 edition of Ski Patrol Magazine are at http://www.nsp.org/members/oms/SPM/SPM_W05.pdf and <http://www.poac-nova.org/pdfs/Autism%20Article-%20SPM%20Final.pdf>. As an alpine patroller since 1992 and an instructor in a number of NSP disciplines since 1995, I am well aware of how communicating and treating someone with autism will not be your usual day on the hill. I was selected in 2010 to join the Public Safety Workgroup for autism awareness by the Commonwealth of Virginia. Subsequently, I am one of only two parents certified to teach the parent training module, which was begun in the fall of 2012. I offer to provide this unique training to help prepare your patrollers for their next encounter with autism. Please call me at home at 703-241-2640 or by email at campbellsservices@gmail.com.



Instructor Development...Instructor Development...Instructor Development

Teresa T. Stewart,

Instructor Development Supervisor

The NSP Instructor Development course is an integral part of all the NSP Educational courses. This is a required step before the mentoring stage with an instructor within the specific discipline with which you are becoming involved (Outdoor Emergency Care, Toboggan and Ski, Mountain Travel and Rescue, Avalanche, Outdoor First Care, etc). This is also a *SENIOR ELECTIVE*.

Interested students should look at the Division Calendar on the Division Website (www.southernnsp.org) for registered courses in their Region and contact the Region Instructor Development contact or drop me an email at (stewart.teresa@gmail.com).

Fred Wessels,
Historian/Archivist

“Long long time ago. I can still remember” - Don McLean

The year was 1972. American Pie was released as a single. The XI Olympic Games were held in Sapporo, Japan. President Richard M. Nixon won his second term in a Landslide. The national average for a gallon of gas was \$0.36. It was the last year you could buy a Chevelle SS with a 454cid engine (about \$2,400). Michael Jackson sang a song about a rat. If you were canoeing and heard a banjo, you paddled faster. Marlon Brando made an offer you could not refuse. Oh, and by the way, **The Southern Division of the National Ski Patrol was formed.**

You may wonder why I left this for last. The answer is that with Google and a few taps of the keys, I can find out pretty much anything that happened in 1972. That is with the exception of the founding of the Southern Division of the National Ski Patrol. **That is why I need your help.** We would love to have a complete history of the Southern Division and just do not have the information.

Join us in Kingsport for the 40th Anniversary of the Southern Division August 10-12, 2012.
Happy 40th Birthday to The Massanutten Ski Patrol. Formed in 1972.

See you in Kingsport.

Fred Wessels (Southerndivisionhistory@gmail.com)

Trivia Questions – contact Fred with your answers

- **The oldest Ski Resort in the South is still in operation. Name the resort.**
- **The First Chair lift in North Carolina was installed at this Lost Ski Area in 1964. Name the Resort.**

40th Division Anniversary (2012) ... 75th National Ski Patrol Anniversary (2013)

Robin Griffith,

*NSP Finance and Fundraising Committees, 75th Anniversary Committee
Sugar Mountain Ski Patrol*

The Southern Division will be celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Southern Division as well as recognition of the 75th National anniversary at the Division Fall Patroller Conference in August 2012 – stay tuned for updates from Robin Griffith, Teresa Stewart and Fred Wessels as plans progress and we ask for your participation.

We are looking for history, memories, thoughts and examples of patrol life to display at the conference as well as surprises! Need your memory jogged?

- One patroller remembers driving patients to the hospital in a Ford LTD Station wagon – what year was this?
- Another patroller remembers, “snow day tickets” (when schools were out for snow days) → they cost 50 cents at Beech and Sugar Mountains.
- Send your thoughts, memories to Robin at (robingriffith@carolina.rr.com) and copy Fred Wessels (Southerndivisionhistory@gmail.com)

Hi Everyone,

If you need an excuse to grab a few friends, take a few days and ski some of the best resorts in Colorado, I have a great one for you. This year the NSP is celebrating its 75th Anniversary with a celebration in Colorado. Come to Colorado starting February 1, 2013, to enjoy some amazing steeps, long groomers and some fresh powder.

The party starts on Friday at National Ski Day at Cooper Mountain, an amazing Gala dinner party on Saturday (February 2, 2013), and finish up the weekend skiing at Winter Park. Grab a few friends, plan the trip to ski, attend the Gala and get over 50% off tickets to Winter Park. Want to stay longer...Winter Park is offering great discounts on extended stay packages.

Check out the 75th Anniversary section for prices and information on www.nsp.org or give me a call to chat about the weekend ([704-906-4061](tel:704-906-4061)). This is a great opportunity to join some friends and patrollers across the nation in amazing activities celebrating 75 years as a remarkable organization. Enjoy the fun and even buy a table at the Gala (as groups of friends, a company or on your own) and promote your home patrol, company or say thank you to someone! Let's make sure the Southern Division is represented!

Professional Director ... Professional Director ... Professional Director ...

Wayne Morgan,
Professional Director

“Summertime...and the living is easy...”

Easy, right? Let's see... build sled shacks, conduct annual staff training, start OEC classes, cleaning, store and repair gear, take care of issues that came up this season that may not have been resolved during the season. Also, what did we do well that needs to be incorporated into our protocol and procedures, what training do we need to plan for, what situations arose that we didn't deal with well and where are we going with it? How am I going to get all of this 'stuff' done and still keep up with my summer responsibilities? Oh yeah, I have a wife and family! I wonder if they know I really haven't deserted them! I'm alive! I'm alive!



I'm off to the Executive Committee meeting next week. What's going on in the division that needs addressing and how do these things affect my patrol, my region, and all paid patrollers? How will my area management and the division's area managements be affected?

I have been fortunate that my area manager provides the opportunities for me to attend the regional ski area's association meetings. By doing this, I am aware of the concerns of the ski areas and able to go to my home mountain and address the issues I am involved with or provide support and cooperation for other area resources involved.

This fall there are several opportunities available for enrichment. Two include the Southern Division Fall Conference and the NSAA Risk Management session. Check with the proper resources for times and registrations. Get out and get involved.

At the Fall Conference, we will have a Patrol Directors Round Table. This is scheduled for Friday afternoon at 5:00 pm. This timing will allow me to take issues discussed to the Executive Committee later in the evening and to the open Board Meeting on Saturday. I have been tasked with several matters to bring to the division. I will need input from you to properly address the following...

- Paid and volunteer relations
- Industry hot topics
- NSP training versus outside training (Do you have to go beyond NSP to get the training you need?)
- Professional growth

The NSAA Fall Risk Management session typically addresses the hot topics and case studies the NSAA has had to address throughout the season and across the nation. There are typically lawyers present from the Ski Area Association who offer legal opinions as discussed. A very worthwhile endeavor if you can attend.

Please plan to attend the Roundtable if possible. If I can be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to communicate. See you in the fall.

Wayne

Young Adult Program ... Young Adult Program ... Young Adult Program

Meggan Monaghan,

Young Adult Program Supervisor

NSP members and patrol candidates must be 15 years of age to qualify as Young Adult patrollers. Young Adult patrollers (age 15 through high school graduation) must meet the same requirements and fulfill the same patroller training and responsibilities as any other member of the patrol with the same skill set.

NSP Young Adult programs at the local level must be conducted in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws, school district policies and procedures, and the ski area's rules and regulations. Division legal counsel should be engaged to help identify and interpret the effects of these regulations on young adult programs. The NSP imposes no limitation on Young Adult patrollers' activities that are not common to all who participate in NSP programs.

Young Adult Program Resource Center at www.nsp.org

This resource center is a one-stop-shop to help you establish a Young Adult Program at your resort, get recruitment help for a new program, or get assistance and support for an existing program. If you or your patrol are looking to establish a young adult program, you will find many of the documents, direction, and tips that you will need to get it off the ground and headed in the right direction. Get recruitment ideas and supplies from the resource center.

Existing Programs

Have a current Young Adult program that needs support? The resource center can help. Program advisers can download program skill and check sheets to help organize duties of young adult patrollers.

- Self-Reporting Program Form - If you have a young adult program that is operational, please tell us about it. This form allows you to share your information with the National Office so that we may display it on our program locator. When interested young adults are looking for programs near them, they will be directed to our locator page.

Other Resources available on the YAP Resource Center

- Program Start-Up Manual - This manual contains information on how to approach the ski patrol director, ski area administration, and establish basic rules for a new program. Ideas on recruitment and retention will be discussed. The manual includes information on working with local media to advertise your program. This manual is a must for anyone looking to begin a new program. [DOWNLOAD](#) manual here.

Adviser Job Description

This sample job description is a listing of suggested roles and responsibilities of young adult advisers who will be working with the program on a divisional or regional level. [DOWNLOAD](#) form now.

Application

The application is designed to be completed by new applicants to the program. It can be customized to fit the needs of your program.

Member Agreement

The member agreement is designed to be reviewed by new young adult patrollers and their parents at an initial meeting. Once reviewed, it should be signed by all parties in order to clarify the roles, responsibilities and requirements of the program.

Skill Sheets

Young Adult patrollers often need skill sheets and checklists to help keep track of their responsibilities. These skill sheets are designed to be customized to help fit your specific needs.

Event Release Waiver

For all YAP sponsored events

Advertisements

The advertisements can be used for recruitment and marketing for your young adult program.

Best Practice Program

The Best Practices Recognition Program can help your young adult program reach the gold standard. It is not a requirement that all young adult patrollers or programs be a part of this recognition initiative. However, it is strongly recommended that advisers work toward achieving this recognition as it helps to ensure the skiing and riding public that your program is doing all it can to provide the safest and best organized patrol possible.

The program offers a series of “standards” that are meant to be achieved by the applicant. These standards require the creation and adoption of rules, regulations, and policies to help programs become as organized as possible and to help reduce possible liability. Furthermore, these standards help programs adhere to NSP rules and regulations.

YAP in the Southern Division

It has been some time since the Southern Division has hosted a YAP Seminar. Our goal this year is to begin to develop and eventually facilitate a Seminar for the Young Adult Patrollers in the Southern Division. To begin this process a coordination committee shall be formed and tasked with ultimately producing a YAP Seminar in 2013-14 winter season. Volunteers who would like to join the YAP coordination team should sign up at the 2012 Southern Division Educational Conference. **Meggan Monaghan**, Southern Division YAP Coordinator, will also be available for questions regarding your Resort’s current or new Young Adult Program.

Articles from around the Division

Patrollers' Journeys

By Chairman Russell Blakely – submitted by Neil Booth

The following scenario is an honest situation that most Patrollers emotionally encounter at some point in their NSP career. Patrolling is made up of numerous opportunities to better one's self. It is our desire, our drive, to be the best Patrollers we can be. There are many challenges and tests that culminate in the ultimate journey of our patrolling careers. It might be recommended to share Chairman Russell's experience to those who do not accomplish their goals during a specific event. It gives evidence that good training and perseverance ultimately pay off and they will become the victors of their respective journeys.

Losers Club of the Ski Patrol

It goes without saying that you newly minted Basics, Senior EMM's, and Seniors are awesome and we congratulate you! However, this email is directed mostly to those who did **not** pass the various evaluations that have been conducted this season. As the Chairman of the *Losers Club of the Ski Patrol*, I would like to welcome you to my club! You see, I didn't get to take my first Basic S & T evaluation because of scheduling problems. When I finally did take the evaluation in my second year, I failed it. Consequently, I was in my third year before I ever passed Basic. To carry on my tradition, I then failed my first Senior S & T test last year. I did ultimately pass Senior this year, but I am sure there are more failures in my future. After I bombed the Basic S&T, I assumed I was one of the rare patrol members to have ever failed an evaluation, and the shame of it all weighed heavily on me. However, several patrollers quietly reached out to me and I was shocked to learn there were many of us "losers" in the Patrol. Now, because of the latest round of evaluation failures, I am pleased to invite you "losers" to join our club! (I have certificates and secret decoder rings available for purchase for those who are interested.)

When I held the first meeting of the *Losers Club of the Ski Patrol*, I was the only member since I did not know about the other "losers" in the Patrol. I will enclose the minutes of the first meeting for those of you who are just now joining, so that you can come up to speed with the other members.

.....

The first meeting of the *Losers Club of the Ski Patrol* was called to order by the Chairman Russell.

Roll Call was as follows:

Russell's Emotions: (sigh, then with a sob) Oh, who cares. I might as well be here as someplace else.

Russell's Reason: Present!

Chairman Russell: Russell's Emotions, please present the new business.

Russell's Emotions: I am mad and tired and humiliated since I failed my evaluation today! Life is not worth

living, at least life as a ski patroller! (tears falling down the cheeks)

Russell's Reason: You are tired, and understandably so, because of all your hard work. But, that has only made you a better skier than you were. And you know that you were not much of a skier when you started. Besides, you may not be the only person who has ever failed “the test.”

Russell's Emotions: Yeah, but it's not fair!! Do you know how hard I have worked and how much time I have put in; how hard it was to change call schedules; how hard it was to make rounds in the hospital at 4 AM so that I could get out in time to make it up for S & T training all this season? And I still failed! (sobbing through the words)

Russell's Reason: I don't think the evaluation was about cosmic fairness. I think it was about whether or not you are a good enough skier to be charged with the responsibility of bringing a patient down the mountain in a toboggan. The skiers who are capable of doing that belong to a pretty exclusive club.

Russell's Emotions: Well, why can't they just take me into the club and THEN make it exclusive?

Russell's Reason: I know you don't really mean that.

Russell's Emotions: Well, I just might. Besides, I thought those evaluators were my friends. I've worked with them for several seasons. Together, we've put up fences and ‘boo and signs, and all that time they acted like they were my friends. Next thing I know, they failed me!!!

Russell's Reason: Yes, they have worked with you and they do like you. But, they are not going to let you do something that you are not currently prepared to do...something that you might later regret. That actually sounds like a pretty good friend to me.

Russell's Emotions: Yeah, but I know I ski well enough to be a Basic. I just had a bad day today.

Russell's Reason: History has shown that people are not as accurate and as impartial as we should be when we assess our own skills and knowledge. If we were, we wouldn't need tests in school; we wouldn't need a complicated process for admission to graduate and professional schools; we wouldn't need tryouts for sports teams.....why the Olympics would be really simple! The world's athletes would gather and look at each other and then three of them would, in a quiet and orderly fashion, ascend the podium, accept their appropriate medals and go home.

Russell's Emotions: (sniffing and choking back tears) Well, I don't care.....I'm done with this whole ski patrol thing. I'm not coming back next year to face more snow guns blowing wet snow on me while I'm cold and tired just to be humiliated by another failed test. They can take this patrol and shove it where the snow don't blow!!!

Russell's Reason: Those long days and wet snow have already made your skiing stronger than it was at the first of the season. Just think how much better you will be this time next season. You just might progress enough to pass the evaluation.

Russell's Emotions: I'm too tired to think about it anymore now. (a long sigh) I need a hug.....but I'll settle for chocolate. Do you have any with you?

Chairman Russell: You should remember that chocolate will make you fat and cause your face to break out.

Russell's Emotions: You know, I'm really getting' sick of you!

Chairman Russell: I think we should adjourn the meeting at this point.

.....

Well, I hope these minutes from the first meeting of *The Losers Club* help. To join, there is just one more thing...you have to promise to come back next season and work even harder on your S & T or OEC. A lot of us losers will be there and we will be anxious to help you. Just be mindful that each of us brings different gifts to the Patrol, which means there may be some evaluations we will never pass. But, we will be, individually and collectively, better for the effort.

Your Loser in Chief,

Russell Blakeley

Photos From Around the Division

Name these Patroller's and the year → send correct answers to Fred Wessels



Photos From Around the Division

Virginia Senior OEC Clinic, February 25th, 2012 @ Bryce Mountain



Senior Candidates- Virginia Region OEC Evaluation, Bryce Mountain, 2/25/12

Photos Submitted by Hugh Jernigan

Scenario in progress- bare ground- Virginia Region OEC Evaluation, Bryce Mountain, 2/25/12



Photos From Around the Division

Virginia Region S & T

Group shot at picnic table- Evaluators totaling scores- Virginia Region S&T Evaluation, Wintergreen, 2/26/12.



Photos submitted by Hugh Jernigan



Group shot at bottom of mountain - Senior Candidates- Virginia Region S&T Evaluation, Wintergreen, 2/26/12.

Photos From Around the Division
Senior OEC Clinic @ Massanutten, January 28, 2012



Scenario in progress- on snow - Virginia Region OEC Clinic, Massanutten, 1/28/12.

Photo submitted by Hugh Jernigan

Photos From Around the Division
Senior - S & T @ Massanutten, January 29, 2012

Photos submitted by Hugh Jernigan



Group shot- candidates and evaluators, start of day briefing for candidates - Virginia Region S&T Clinic, Massanutten, 1/29/12.



Snowboarder and sled - Virginia Region S&T Clinic, Massanutten, 1/29/12.

**Join us for Fun in the Mountains
Southern Division - Patroller Conference**

August 10-12, 2012

MeadowView Conference Resort & Convention Center

Please reserve your room at the rate of \$95.00 plus 16.5% tax (\$110.68 total) and ask for the National Ski Patrol 2012 rate

Call (888) 632-3697 (Central Reservations) or (423) 578-6600 / (800) 820-5055 MeadowView direct.

Hotel deadline for reserving rooms at the NSP rate is **FRIDAY - JULY 13th**
<http://marriott.com/hotels/travel/tricc-meadowview-conference-resort-and-convention-center/>



Here are the events scheduled for patrollers this year:

- Annual Board of Directors Meeting
- Senior OEC Evaluator Update (Mandatory Update for all Senior OEC Evaluators)
- Adaptive Skier - OEC Clinics
- Introduction to the Senior Program
- Professional Director Roundtable
- Certified Program Roundtable and Introduction
- Mountain Travel and Rescue *Fundamentals* Course (8-hour) **SENIOR Elective**
- Avalanche Awareness Course (8-hour) **SENIOR Elective**
- Transportation and Snowsports Programs Meeting
- Young Adult Program
- NSP Educational Program Supervisor/Instructor Meeting
- Awards Banquet Saturday Evening
- Special Events Committee will be planning events for the family – information to follow

This is a full service hotel and conference center that caters to the needs of its guests. There are two State Parks close by for outdoor recreation. The hotel has its own golf course, plus swimming pool and hot tub. The meeting facilities are first class, and the Hospitality Suite is now an experience.

This is the Official Notice for the Annual Board Meeting and I would like to add my official invitation to all members and alumni. This is your event! Please join us for a fun, informative, and educational experience deep in the mountains of Tennessee.

See you there!

Sincerely,

Richard Boyer – Southern Division Director

Rob Raff - Southern Division Meeting Coordinator

Teresa T. Stewart – Southern Division Meeting Organizer



**Southern Division - NSP
Patroller Conference
Registration Form
2012**



Friday, August 10, 2012; Saturday, August 11, 2012
Please complete one form for each person attending:

Name: _____

Address: _____ Email address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number you can be reached at: Home _____ Cell _____

Patrol: _____ Title: _____

Please register me for the following events: ****Schedule is subject to change – Final schedule available @ Conference

Please register me for the following events:	Friday	Saturday
Professional Director Roundtable (Wayne Morgan)	5:00 - 7:00 pm	
Instructor Development Roundtable (Teresa Stewart)	5:00 - 6:00 pm	
Executive Board Committee Meeting	7:00 - 10:00 pm	
Board of Directors Meeting – Main Meeting Room		8:00 am – 3:00 pm
Senior Evaluator Update (Bob Brewster / Hugh Jernigan)		9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Adaptive Skier - OEC Clinics (Bob Brewster) multiple sessions		9:00-12:00/1:00-3:00
LUNCH		12:00 pm -1:00 pm
Introduction to the Senior Program (Bob Brewster / Hugh Jernigan)		1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Certified Program Roundtable (Brandon Deane)		1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Young Adult Program (Meegan Monaghan)		1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Transportation & Snowsports Program (Briggs Allen/Tony Tingle)		3:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Mountain Travel & Awareness Fundamentals (Scott Krein) SENIOR ELECTIVE 8-hours (MUST HAVE 10-25 patrollers registered)		
Avalanche Safety and Rescue Course (Scott Campbell) SENIOR ELECTIVE 8-hours (MUST HAVE 10-25 patrollers registered)		
AWARDS Banquet		7:00 pm

	Before Aug. 3	After Aug. 3
____ FULL Meeting Conference Registration, Lunch, and Awards Banquet	\$74.00	\$84.00
____ AWARDS Banquet (7:00 pm) and Conference Registration	\$51.00	\$61.00
____ LUNCH (12 Noon- 1:00pm) and Conference Registration on Saturday	\$41.00	\$51.00
____ Conference Registration (Hospitality Suite Included)	\$18.00	\$28.00

Total enclosed = \$ _____

Mail completed form and check (made out to "Hawksnest Ski Patrol –So. Div. Fall Conference") to:
Fred Wessels – Conference Registrar, 522 Jervey Road, Tryon, NC 28782
 For your convenience, you may pay your registration fee online using PayPal. Send your payment to hnsptres@gmail.com. Select "Service/Other". Your confirmation will be your receipt.
Reservation Fees Must Be Received At Above Address By August 3, 2012 And Are Nonrefundable After That Date.
Hotel reservations MUST be made separately to the hotel by July 13, 2012.

In Memory



Mars Hill – **Bruce Estridge**, 52, of Mars Hill, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, May 4, 2012, at his residence. Bruce became a patroller at Wolf Ridge in 2003. In 2004 he became an OEC instructor and had been instrumental in leading OEC courses and participating in refreshers ever since. His stations were never ordinary. He even built a lift tower out of a concrete form in order to make a scenario more realistic. It was not unusual for him to log well over 200 hours in a season, and Bruce won the first Lenoir Hartzler Most Valuable Patroller Memorial Award for top hours in the 2005/2006 season. He loved patrolling, and his ski patrol family. He was as honest as they come. He was always willing to lend a hand at anything; from putting up bamboo, to summer work days building a new warming hut, or doing building and equipment maintenance. He was a boy scout through and through, and was our own version of “McGyver”... if you needed it, he had it in his fanny pack, and if he couldn’t fix it, it was unlikely anyone could! His familiar call to “Let’s Spread The Red” was heard whenever there were too many gathering at the bottom of the hill, and he would be the first one back on the lift, no matter the weather or conditions.

Bruce attended North Carolina State University and graduated from Western Carolina University with degrees in biology and environmental health. Bruce lived most of his life in Western North Carolina, the past twenty years in Mars Hill. He worked for the United States Post Office as a Rural Letter Carrier in Candler, NC. Bruce was a devoted husband and father; he adored his family and was so very proud of his children. Bruce was an avid outdoorsman, intrigued by God’s creation and wonderment, seizing each and every day to the fullest. As a youth, Bruce was a very active member of Boy Scout Troop #8 of Asheville. He was an active member of the Flittermouse Grotto of the National Speleological Society and enjoyed leading caving tours and attending educational caving events. He also loved hiking, backpacking, fishing and studying the bible. He was a member of Biltmore Church of Christ in Asheville, NC.

Surviving are his wife of 26 years, Sue Scott Estridge, and children; Katie Elizabeth Estridge and son, Joseph “Joey” Denman Estridge.

A celebration of life service was held on Sunday, May 20, 2012 at 2:00 PM at Mars Hill Baptist Church in Mars Hill.

In lieu of flowers, an educational fund has been set up for Bruce’s children through the NC State Employees’ Credit Union. Please make checks out to Sue Estridge c/o NC-SECU, PO Box 920, Weaverville, NC 28787.

Online condolences may be emailed to www.blueridgefuneralservice.org.

Contributed by Randi Lowery, Assistant Region Director, Dixie Region.

FROM THE DIVISION DIRECTOR

We've come a long way in the past 8 years.....from two volunteer area patrols to a National Division (and not the smallest one either!). The best is yet to come. As we enter into the 71-72 season we have our largest team yet: 15 area patrols, 5 sections, 2 regions, and 400 patrolmen. Instead of the single fall refresher at Ashville, we will have five this year, with the finest text yet produced.

Here in the south we can justifiably look with pride upon our past service and fast rise within the System. We have built our reputation on the genuine friendship and cooperative spirit that has become known as the "southern way". It is a reputation worth keeping!

National Meeting

This June the Southern Division was the co-host to the Annual Meeting of Board of Directors at Arlington, Virginia. We welcomed them in a manner we hope they will remember. The major order of business was a reorganization study of the entire NSPS. Although not adopted as originally proposed by the study committee, a modified plan was accepted creating an executive board which will streamline National operations considerably. The new by-laws of the Southern Division followed these streamlined proposals.

Fall Registration

This year we hope to set new records in obtaining our registration cards (which shouldn't be too hard to do!). Upon completion of the first aid and hill refresher, and payment of dues, the registration forms will be forwarded directly to me (instead of through line channels) and sent directly to Denver. Any delays this year we can blame on the snail mail.

FALL DIVISION OFFICERS MEETING

On October 2nd and 3rd all the Line Officers, Staff Advisors and Patrol Leaders met in Linville, N.C. We were most happy to have Ed Ericson, our National Executive Administrator, fly in from Denver to be with us.

Ed said that the national office strives to serve all of us as well as possible. We can help them to help us by ordering early in the season and being sure all orders have correct information and necessary signature. All items ordered on 801 forms are kept in stock and are usually shipped out within 48 hours (5,700 last year). This is real service, especially since there was a 43.1% jump in ordering! In spite of prices going up all around (including postage which amounted to \$14,000 last year), NSPS National dues will still be \$5.00 (Division and Region dues will remain \$1.00). Insurance has gone up this year. We were reminded to be sure we use proper first aid and complete carefully all accident reports including signature. This will help all!

Ed stressed that Denver headquarters is the "Coordinating Hub" of the whole system. They will welcome suggestions on how to serve better and especially would like tips on first aid that individual areas have found successful. If suggestions prove to be worthy, they will be passed on so others may benefit.

As part of the organizational meeting for the Southern Division, by-laws were approved. An executive committee was formed consisting of the Division Director and both Region Directors. The Board of Directors committee consists of the above three plus Section Chiefs.

WELCOME TO VIKING MOUNTAIN!

Viking Mountain ski slopes, which some say are among the most challenging in the Southeast, will open with two chair lifts and rope tows December 15. Frank Kaehn is president of Mountain Venture Developing Corporation which owns Viking Mt.

Chair lifts are being installed on both the 1,000-foot beginners slope and the 3,000-foot advanced run which is "S" shaped with a vertical drop of 600 feet and has an 18 to 25 degree slope. Viking Mt. is almost 5,000 feet in elevation and had a total snowfall of 145 inches during the winter of 1969-1970.

The Patrol Leader of this new area is Gary Delius. We all wish him a great year!

SUGAR MOUNTAIN

Much has been done at Sugar Mt. during the "off ski season". Big Birch, which is the lower third of Flying Mile ski trail has been widened to accomodate more skiers, and therefore more room for sitzmarks and toboggans. Also, the snow-making potential has been doubled so now the entire lower half can be covered with "powdered sugar" in one cold swoop. Now, if only Ma Nature will just give us a cool cake to frost! ! ! !

Southern Division Calendar & Staff Directory

Please refer to the **Division Website** for updated schedules!

www.southernmsp.org

The calendar is flexible dependant on the weather – please check the calendar and/or with your patrol representative / Region Director for the most up-to-date changes.
